

NOTE ON THE TYPE-SPECIMEN OF *CRIOCERATITES*  
*BOWERBANKII*, J. DE C. SOWERBY.<sup>1</sup>

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PLATE VII.

THE type-specimen of *Crioceratites bowerbankii*, formerly in the Bowerbank Collection, now forms part of the British Museum collection [Brit. Mus. No. 46474]. The present writer's attention was directed to it recently in connexion with the description<sup>2</sup> of an ammonoid, *Ammonitoceras tovilense*, from the Lower Greensand (Aptian) of Kent, and two or three features about the specimen that had not hitherto been recorded seem to deserve notice.

Sowerby's<sup>3</sup> description of the fossil was communicated to the Geological Society of London in a letter which was read on March 8th, 1837. In his letter Sowerby writes: "The recent discovery in the Isle of Wight, by Mr. Bowerbank, of a fossil shell resembling *Ammonites*, but differing essentially from that genus, and of a magnificent *Scaphites*, appears to me of sufficient importance to be laid before the Geological Society; I have, therefore, drawn up the following descriptions, accompanied by reduced figures of the fossils. pl. xxxiv."

His description of *Crioceratites bowerbankii* is as follows: "The gigantic species from the Isle of Wight I shall name, after its discoverer, *Crioceratites bowerbankii*, pl. xxxvi, fig. 1. Spec. Char.—Whorls about four, slightly flattened on their sides, and nearly close; the inner one ornamented with numerous radiating furrows, which, gradually disappearing upon the outer whorl, are replaced by eight or ten thick, arched costæ, extending completely across the whorl, and largest and most elevated towards the thinly edged, transversely oblong aperture.

"The septa are rather distant, terminating where the costæ begin to enlarge. There is generally a short rib almost close to the aperture, and in one specimen I have noticed an additional short rib between the two long ones which precede the termination. In an individual sixteen inches wide, the septa are one inch and a half apart.

"The fossil occurs in the lower green sand on the south coast of the Isle of Wight."

The type-specimen is very well represented in Sowerby's figure, the enormous enlargement of the ribs on the body-chamber being well shown. Of these ribs, and counting from the aperture, the two largest are the third and fifth, the fourth is a trifle

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

<sup>2</sup> G. C. Crick, Proc. Malac. Soc., vol. xii, November, 1916, pp. 118–20, pl. vi.

<sup>3</sup> "Letter from Mr. James de Carle Sowerby to the Secretary, on the Genus *Crioceratites* and on *Scaphites gigas*": Trans. Geol. Soc. London, ser. II, vol. iv, p. 409, pl. xxxiv.

